



JOINT CONVENTION NEWS

JOINT CONVENTION ON THE SAFETY OF SPENT
FUEL MANAGEMENT AND ON THE SAFETY OF
RADIOACTIVE WASTE MANAGEMENT



2011 MARCH TABLE OF CONTENTS

**INTRODUCTION &
PURPOSE** >

**PREPARING FOR
THE FOURTH CYCLE
ORGANIZATIONAL
& REVIEW
MEETINGS** >

**JOINT CONVENTION
PROGRESS** >

**TOPICS OF
INTEREST** >

STATISTICS >

**FOURTH REVIEW
PROCESS
SCHEDULE** >

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The latest updates on the Fukushima Nuclear Accident can be found at:

<http://www.nisa.meti.go.jp/english/index.html> and

<http://www.iaea.org/newscenter/news/tsunamiupdate01.html>

INTRODUCTION & PURPOSE

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It is my pleasure to introduce the renewed Joint Convention Newsletter in time for the Joint Convention Organizational Meeting to be held 10 and 11 May 2011, in preparation for the Fourth Review Meeting to be convened under the Joint Convention. The renewal of the newsletter is based on a recommendation at the Third Joint Convention Review Meeting to improve interactions between the review meetings by sharing practice and experience, progress made, safety issues, etc., relevant to further ensure safety of nuclear waste management amongst the Contracting Parties. In addition, the renewed Newsletter is intended for communication with the public and stakeholders. As the President of the Third Review Meeting of the Joint Convention, I would like to encourage all Contracting Parties to participate and contribute to the Newsletter to further enhance the safe management of nuclear waste.

Kunihisa Soda
President
Third Review Meeting of the Joint Convention

PREPARING FOR THE FOURTH CYCLE ORGANIZATIONAL & REVIEW MEETINGS



SCHEDULE AND MILESTONES

Dates for the Fourth Review Meeting and Contracting Party milestones were set at the Third Review Meeting in 2009. The Organizational Meeting is planned for 2011 May to prepare for the Fourth Review Meeting in accordance with the rules and guidance documents (IN-FCIRCs 602/Rev. 3, and 603/Rev. 4). The Organizational Meeting is open for attendance by all Contracting Parties and by late ratifiers, and its goal is to develop detailed plans for the Fourth Review Meeting.

FOURTH REVIEW MEETING PLANNING

Third Review Meeting participants recommended improvements for future review meetings including: 1) Policy makers topical meeting; 2) Data presentation tool for National Reports based on the net-enabled waste management data base; 3) Improvements in Officers selection; 4) Joint Convention leadership; 5) Knowledge transfer and continuity between review meetings; 6) Improved interaction between review meetings; and 7) Amendments to the duties of the Country Group Vice-Chairpersons.

FOURTH REVIEW MEETING PLANNING CONT.

Preparing for the Fourth Review Meeting has already begun based on the schedule approved at the Third Review Meeting. The Organizational Meeting in May is 12 months before the Fourth Review Meeting and will be followed by the Workshop of Incoming and Outgoing Officers to ensure continuity and knowledge transfer are maintained consistent with the Joint Convention objectives.

The Third Review Meeting participants also recommended the Fourth Review Meeting be held in 2012 May. Goals for this meeting are further contributing to achieving and maintaining a high level of safety worldwide in spent fuel and radioactive waste management practices. In order to fulfill these goals, the actions of the Contracting Parties and their respective reports for the Fourth Review Meeting should include the following topics: 1) Developing a comprehensive regulatory framework; 2) Ensuring effective regulatory body independence; 3) Implementing spent fuel and waste management strategies with visible milestones; 4) Providing funding to secure effective waste management; 5) Educating and recruiting competent staff and employees; and 6) Developing geological repositories for high level waste. Planning for the Fourth Review Meeting is underway.

FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS FROM THE THIRD REVIEW MEETING

Follow-up actions from the Third Review Meeting recommendations have been taken since this meeting. They include: 1) Policy makers topical meeting: *On the Establishment of a Radioactive Waste Management Organization held in Paris in 2010 June - as recommended by the Third Review meeting*; 2) Data presentation tool for Joint Convention National Reports based on the net-enabled waste management data base (NEWMDB) – *The data presentation tool is being developed by IAEA, based on NEWMDB and other data bases*; 3) Improvements in officers selection – *see revised INFCIRC-603, Rev. 4*; 4) Joint Convention leadership; *New (Contracting Parties: 9; Total number of Contracting Parties – 57 (according to the latest change in status as of 2010 August)*; 5) Knowledge transfer and continuity between review meetings – *A Workshop of Incoming and Outgoing Officers will be held after the Organizational Meeting, and a Quick Guide for Officers will be discussed*, 6) Improve interaction between review meetings; *Continuity Meeting, General Committee Meetings, and Organizational Meeting to be held 12 months before the Review Meeting (included in INFCIRC-602/Rev. 3)*; and 7) Amendments to the duties of the Country Group Vice-Chairpersons - *revised INFCIRC-603/Rev. 4 and INFCIRC-602/Rev. 3*.

<http://www-ns.iaea.org/downloads/rw/conventions/third-review-meeting/final-report-english.pdf>

JOINT CONVENTION PROGRESS



TECHNICAL MEETING IN MOROCCO, 2009 DECEMBER

The IAEA and the Moroccan government, in collaboration with CNESTEN, organized a meeting in Rabat, Morocco, on 2-3 December 2009. This meeting discussed the Joint Convention objectives and Contracting Party experiences in the ratification process, preparing National Reports, and the review process. It also discussed lessons learned by Contracting Parties to the Joint Convention.

TECHNICAL MEETING IN FRANCE, 2010 JUNE

IAEA's Joint Convention Secretariat held a technical meeting in Paris, France, 2010 June, on the establishment of a Radioactive Waste Management Organization. This meeting was recommended at the Third Review Meeting.

The meeting purpose was to discuss implementing measures for establishing National organizations for managing radioactive waste. Meeting participants included experts from Joint Convention Contracting Parties and specialists from countries not yet Contracting Parties. The meeting was concluded by a visit to the Centre de L'Aube waste disposal facility.

JOINT CONVENTION GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING, 2010 SEPTEMBER

Another Joint Convention General Committee Meeting was also held at the IAEA's Headquarters on 24 September 2010. The main focus of this meeting was to follow up on actions from the 20 November 2009, General Committee meeting and discuss results and suggestions from the Paris Technical Meeting held in 2010 June. Suggestions discussed included enhancing communications, promoting continuity between meetings, and preparing for the Fourth Review Meeting.

WORKSHOP ON THE JOINT CONVENTION, INCLUDING SUPPORTING A WEB-BASED DATA REPORTING SYSTEM (NEWMDB), JAPAN, 2010 SEPTEMBER

The workshop was organized by IAEA and hosted by the Nuclear and Industrial Safety Agency (NISA), Ministry of Economy, Trade, and Industry (METI) in cooperation with Japan Nuclear Energy Safety Organization (JNES). The workshop was associated with the 5th annual meeting of the Asian Nuclear Safety Network (ANSN) Topical Group on Radioactive Waste Management (RWM). The workshop was well received and generated a high level of interest among the 11 Asian countries and Australia who participated in the workshop, especially the simulated Joint Convention review.

The Net-Enabled Waste Management Data Base (NEWMDB) was demonstrated at this workshop. NEWMDB is an information gathering aid for complying with Joint Convention reporting provisions, and using the database for data presentation at Joint Convention meetings.

INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP ON AUTHORIZATION (SITING, DESIGN, OPERATION, SHUT DOWN AND DECOMMISSIONING) OF CENTRALIZED STORAGE FACILITIES FOR RADIOACTIVE WASTE INCLUDING RADIOACTIVE SEALED SOURCES, 2010 OCTOBER

The International Workshop on Authorization (Siting, Design, Operation, Shutdown, and Decommissioning) of Centralized Storage Facilities for Radioactive Waste Including Radioactive Sealed Sources was held in Portugal on 11-15 October 2010. This was the first workshop to develop synergies between the Code of Conduct and the Joint Convention.

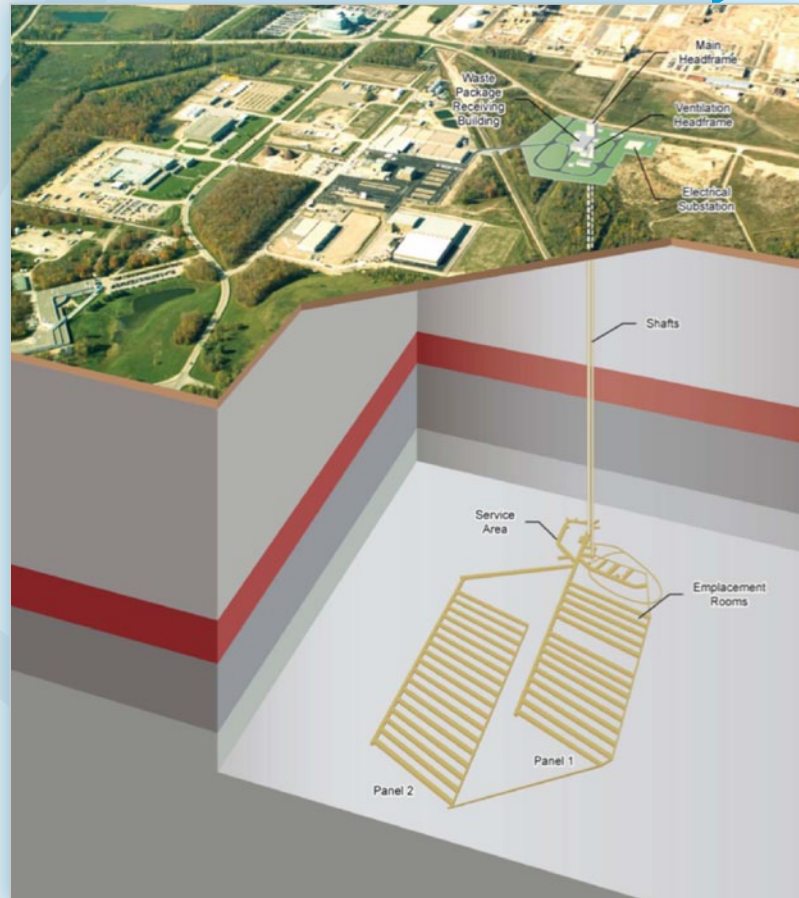
TOPICS OF INTEREST

CANADA – STATUS OF ONTARIO POWER GENERATION’S PROPOSED DEEP GEOLOGIC REPOSITORY FOR LOW-AND INTERMEDIATE-LEVEL WASTE

Canada’s Third National Report described Ontario Power Generation’s (OPG) proposal to construct a deep rock vault in clay-rich limestone, hundreds of meters below ground. This Deep Geologic Repository (DGR) will be a long-term management facility for OPG’s low- and intermediate-level radioactive wastes. The proposed DGR location is the Bruce nuclear site in Tiverton, Ontario, Canada (Municipality of Kincardine). In 2005, the Municipality of Kincardine conducted a poll among its citizens to gauge the level of support for the DGR. The majority agreed with OPG’s recommendation and the project has now entered the long and careful regulatory process. The Minister of the Environment, in 2007 June, referred the DGR project environmental assessment to a review panel, and it is expected the appointment of the Joint Review Panel (JRP) will be announced in 2011.

The JRP will evaluate the environmental assessment and the first stages of licensing. Pending approvals and licensing by regulatory agencies, the DGR will begin construction in 2012 and operation in 2017/2018.

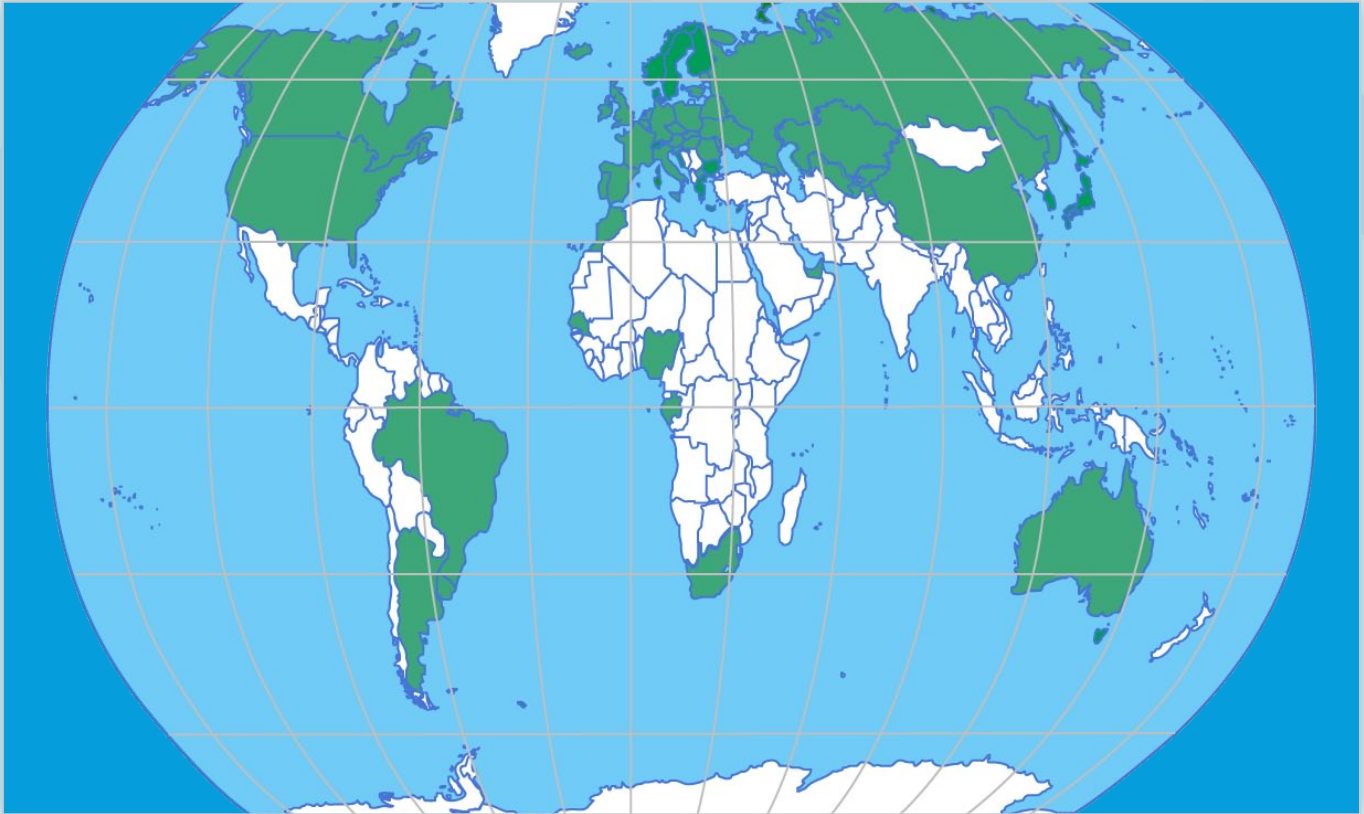
More information about this project is available at: <http://www.opg.com/power/nuclear/waste/dgr>



Preliminary design of a Deep Geologic Repository (DGR) for Low and Intermediate Level Waste

Source: Ontario Power Generation

STATISTICS



THE CURRENT NUMBER OF CONTRACTING PARTIES TO THE JOINT CONVENTION IS 57, AND THE LAST CHANGE IN STATUS WAS IN 2010 AUGUST

Nine new Contracting Parties have joined since the Third Review Meeting.

Recently Joined Contracting Parties	Countries
Africa	Gabon
Asia	Kazakhstan
	United Arab Emirates
Europa	Cyprus
	Georgia
	Macedonia
	Moldova
	Montenegro
	Portugal

FOURTH REVIEW PROCESS SCHEDULE

3 MAY 2011

Submit credentials of the delegates and the names of alternates, advisers, and experts for the Organizational Meeting

10-11 MAY 2011

Organizational Meeting for the Fourth Review Meeting

12 MAY 2011

Workshop of Incoming and Outgoing Officers

7 OCTOBER 2011

Deadline for Submission of National Reports

7 FEBRUARY 2012

Deadline for Submission of Questions and Comments on National Reports

7 APRIL 2012

Deadline for Submission of Answers for National Reports

14-23 MAY 2012

The Fourth Review Meeting

JOINT CONVENTION NEWS

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